

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2002-257146 (the U.S. equivalent of which is Ueno U.S. Patent No. 6,918,701) in view of Kellam (U.S. Patent No. 7,000,909). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 comprises a lower casing which is configured in one-piece and includes an annular base portion, an upper cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of an upper surface of the annular base portion and on which the annular upper surface is formed, and a lower cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of a lower surface of the annular base portion, said lower surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as the spring seat surface.

The Examiner states that “The lower cylindrical portion of Ueno is element 86 which is integrally formed with the base since the definition of integrally only requires that the components be connected and not necessarily one-piece, ...”.

Accordingly, Ueno discloses neither the lower casing which includes the upper cylindrical portion on which the annular upper surface is formed, nor the lower casing having the lower cylindrical portion, since our lower casing is configured in one-piece.

Kellam never discloses our strut sliding bearing defined by the above, especially, the upper cylindrical portion on which the annular upper surface is formed, as well as the lower

surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as the spring seat surface.

Therefore, we believe, our application is now in an allowable condition.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-120.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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